

**INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING  
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING**

**June 20, 2011 6pm  
BUCK CREEK VFD  
5809 AIRPORT BLVD  
GREENFIELD IN 46140  
317-335-1403**

**A MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:10 pm**

Chairman called for the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited, afterwards, Chief Hayes asked for a moment of silence for the fallen firefighters.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present

Jeff Hayes, Chair  
Jack Kerney Sr., Vice Chair  
Jerry Nulliner  
Mike Garvey  
James Greeson, Fire Marshal  
Burke Jones

Absent

Candice Ashby, secretary  
Thomas Hanify  
Ab Crosby  
Greg Wyant

**C. APPROVAL OF May 10, 2011 minutes.**

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to correct the statement in I (a). should read that an Indiana instructor is required as Lead evaluator and lead instructor for IFSAC

purposes. Not an Indiana proctor. Jack Kerney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### D. CERTIFICATIONS REPORT, RICK ARCHER

Referencing the hand out for certification numbers, certification has issued 1419 since May 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. In the first quarter of 2010, certification issued 4685, and the first quarter of 2011 they have issued 3620 certifications. Mr. Archer stated that he intended to look into the drop of certifications and report at the next meeting. He thinks part of the issue is we did not issue IFSAC for the first quarter of 2011. This time frame is January 1 thru March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Hayes asked that this information be included into the agenda packet that gets sent out prior to the meeting. He also asked if they had a number of challenge tests in a year.

Chief Hayes introduced Michael Garvey, Chief of Staff, sitting in place of James Bennett who has transferred to Assistant State Fire Marshal.

Rick Archer demonstrated the new on line testing system that is now being beta tested. The instructor is going to register a class and staff then creates tests for the students. This is why we need the name of the students on registration now. The system creates a password for each student. At the time of testing, the student will sign in using the assigned password, and the test will be there. The password issued will be used only once. The student will complete the test, hit the submit button, and the system will give the score immediately. Each student will have a different test. The time frame has not changed; you have 3 hours to complete the exam.

The system will not tell you if you skipped a question. Once you have submitted your test, the system locks it in. Criteria still has not been set for qualified testing sites, and there are a few other issues to resolve yet.

The Marshal asked why the students did not get the questions they missed back so that they could review them.

John Buckman explained that there was a test security issue, but we would look into being able to issue the objectives that they missed.

Chief Hayes quoted the rule explaining that the student has a right to review the questions.

A question from the audience: why cannot the system, after the test has been graded, show the students the missed questions? This is on the computer, the student cannot write the question down, but he can see what he missed. Rick Archer is going to look into that.

This testing system will then enter the score into the acadis system. Staff will complete the information from the application submitted by the student.

Chief Hayes stated that if there are any more questions or concerns, e-mail Barb Goble at [bgoble@dhs.in.gov](mailto:bgoble@dhs.in.gov) and she will forward them to the board.

The on-line instructor recertification will become active in about 45 days. You will sign up for a portal account and follow the directions from there. If you renew on-line, you will not be required to send hard copies any more. A percentage of the individuals will be audited. If you are audited you have 3 business days to send the hard copies to the office. When you are in the acadis portal, you will have the ability to update your personal information. You can change your address and other information.

## E VARIANCE REQUESTS

1. Dave Albers requested a variance for Firefighter I/II. He has been a firefighter since 1984 and he is a First Class Firefighter. He is asking for FF ½ based on years of experience in the fire service.

Staff recommends denial. The fire service had 3 years in which to transfer first and second class over to FF 1 and 2 with only the written exam. This opportunity ended in August of 1999. Staff's concern is that if you grant this individual this variance, you might as well automatically grant the whole state of Indiana the same benefit because this will open the door for everyone.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed. This request was denied.

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|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2. Rich Austin    | 3. Melinda Webb  | 4. Jason Jackson |
| 5. Michael Cooper | 6. Craig Nuckols | 7. Jordan Stough |

Requested variances for Swift Water Rescue Operations and Technician based on the Indiana River Rescue course. They completed this class in October 2007 and thought that all certifications would be taken care of.

Staff recommends denial. We had the written/practical testing in place at the time of this course. Also, students initialed their own skill sheets.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion to deny certification passed.

8. Gary Bowden requested variances for Structural Collapse Operations/Technician and Confined Space Rescue Operations/Technician based on classes he took in 1998, 2002 and 2007.

Staff recommends denial. There is no continued education information submitted, standards have been updated several times since the classes were taken and prerequisites have not been met.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

9. Jeffery Geesaman requested variance for Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician, and Water Awareness, Swift Water Rescue Operations and Technician based on classes he completed in 2004 and 2006.

Staff recommends denial. There is no continued education information submitted, standards have been updated several times since the classes were taken and prerequisites have not been met.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve staff recommendation. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

10. Anthony Mann requested variances for Confined Space Rescue Operations and Technician, Rope Rescue Operations and Technician; Swift Water Rescue Operations and Technician; Vehicle Machinery Rescue Operations and Technician, based on courses they attended in 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Staff recommends denial. There is no continued education information submitted, standards have been updated several times since the classes were taken and prerequisites have not been met.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed.

11. Alan Richards requested variances for Confined Space Rescue Operations and Technician based on class he completed in 2004.

Staff recommends denial. There is no continued education information submitted, standards have been updated several times since the classes were taken and prerequisites have not been met.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve staff recommendation. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

12. Todd Pursley requested variances for Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician based on a class he completed in 2004.

Staff recommends denial. There is no continued education information submitted, standards have been updated several times since the classes were taken and prerequisites have not been met.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to table until the August meeting. Jack Kerney seconded.

13. Rodney Richardson requested a variance for Instructor I, and II/III based on his Indiana Teachers license. He has been a firefighter since 1983 and holds a First and second Class Firefighter certification.

Staff has no recommendation at this time.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve pending his passing the instructor reciprocity test. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

14. Philip Bedel requested a variance for Instructor II/III based on his Indiana Teachers license. He is currently a FF2 and he holds a current instructor I certification. Philip is an active member of the Centerville fire Rescue Dept.

Staff has no recommendation at this time.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve pending his passing the instructor reciprocity test. Jeff Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

15. Tim Murray requested reciprocity for instructor II/III based on his Law enforcement instructor certification. Tim is an active member of the Ivy Tech state College, and teaches Investigation courses throughout the state.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Indiana Reciprocity test.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approved pending his passing the instructor reciprocity test. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

16. Samantha Burell requested reciprocity for Firefighter I/II and Driver Operator Pumper. Ms. Burell was a firefighter in NY for over 10 years. Her request was tabled the Board meeting in May due to information being received too late for the board to look it over.

Staff recommends approval based on the additional information received.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

17. Oral Banta requested a variance for Hazmat Technician. This was tabled at the May meeting because information was received too late for the board to review it.

Staff recommends approval based on the addition information received.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve based on the information they received. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

18. Mark Litwinko requested a variance for Hazardous Material Technician, based on a Bachelor of Science degree from Univ. of Findlay, (1998), and refresher courses that he has completed from 1995-1998. He has also completed on line courses for HazMat training through Firehouse Training Software.

Staff recommends denial. The courses listed are Ohio OSHA requirements or refresher courses. The listed information does not meet the NFPA standard and there is no record of skills for technician level being completed.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to deny based on staff recommendation. . Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

19. Chad Bauer requested a variance for Fire Officer II and Fire Officer III based on his Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. He has enclosed transcripts.

Staff has no recommendation at this time.

James Greeson made a motion to table. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

The following individuals requested a variance for Fire Investigator skills.

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|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 20. Daniel Huff   | 21. Michael Haehl  | 22. Brian Farmer   |
| 23. Jerry Harder  | 24. Nathan Thomas  | 25. Jason Stumm    |
| 26. Paul Bryson   | 27. Gregory Hedge  | 28. Scott Hoadland |
| 29. Jeff Goble    | 30. Richard Cannon | 31. Jamie Meredith |
| 32. Jared McNames |                    |                    |

There was an issue with the skills at time of testing. John Buckman can speak on this subject and the Lead instructor, Todd Jordan, and the administrative staff of this course is in here today to answer any questions.

The lead evaluator signed the skill sheets the day before they were done. On The schedule date, the lead evaluator was called into work and was not available to evaluate skills. The other individual at the scene conducted the evaluation. The individual was not eligible to be lead instructor because he was an instructor I. All skills were completed correctly. The problem is that the paperwork is invalid and staff is asking that the board grant this variance for the individual students. There was no intent to lie in this situation.

James Greeson made a motion to approve the skills valid on the date they were completed. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed.

F. REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY.

No requests at this time.

G. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

No report at this time.

H. STATE FIRE MARSHAL, JAMES GREESON

A moment of silence for Scott Davis death. Fire Marshall Office is assisting with the investigation of cause. We are not ready to make an announcement as to the cause. Tomorrow at the funeral we will be presenting the Governor's Medal of Honor along with the state flag to his family.

House Bill 1365, recovery of legal fees when a department has to sue to receive response compensation. It is the responsibility of the Fire Chief to review all the bills prior to them being mailed.

The Indiana codes are on the web page. I suggest you get familiar with these bills.

Storm damage: I observed some of that damage. I want to give thanks to the responders from those nights. The local responders took care of business and we did not have that first request from the state. I want to thank them.

Firework season is upon us: the way this is supposed to work is that the stores are supposed to file for a permit from our office, and once the store is stocked,

we will go out and inspect it. If there are no life safety code violations, we will issue the permit. The law permits each location to have 2 containers with stock on site. There are requirements and I suggest you go no line to find what those are.

There are a group of us, the Indiana Fire Alliance that meets several times a year. There are 4 main issues that we are working on Training, Health and Safety, Funding for Fire Dept. and Assist in oversight out of the Fire Marshal Office.

The groups involved are IVFA, Indiana Professional Firefighter Union, the Fire Marshal Office and Indiana Firefighter Association. In the near future you are going to be getting about a 10 page questionnaire. I encourage you to take the time to complete this and get it back to us.

Jim Bennett has moved back into the Fire Marshal Office as Assist. beginning today.

I. HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF OF STAFF MIKE GARVEY.

No report at this time

J. STATE FIRE TRAINING DIRECTOR REPORT, JOHN BUCKMAN

Investigator certification. We held a meeting in the office on June 10, 2011 because what we have discovered is that for this course, most are not doing the skills. They do not do the live fire burn, or the court room training. We had a conference call with several instructors throughout the state. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, we looked at the test bank, the skills and the curriculum. The group asked for 3 different levels of investigator, the first level would be an introduction and would be around 16 hours. The second level would be cause and origin and it would be about 60 hours, and then the third level would be about 60 hours. This is just what they asked for. The skill sheet is what we spent most of the time on. The current skill sheets are vague. They do not explain what needs to be done or how to do it. I am asking permission to beta test the new skill sheets until January 1 2012. The group has approved the first draft of this. This is set up to be like the Firefighter ½ skills. The skills are set up like EMS, the nice to know and the critical to know. If you miss the critical step, then you have failed the test. This is a concept that we are looking at. The group said that not everyone should be an investigator.



Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve the beta test for the skills, with a report back to the board after each course is presented through January 31, 2012. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

Jeff Hayes asked why the prerequisite of Firefighter 2 or law enforcement for the level 2 certification. You have to have some kind of training in order to go to an investigator school. The group wants everyone at this level, to have some kind of training and they included law enforcement because you can be an investigator and not a firefighter. We have staff in the arson division that are not firefighters but they are law enforcement and they are fire investigators. They do not want to be firefighters.

Jeff Hayes stated that in our rules right now, we have no prerequisite. John Buckman answered yes. The group also wants a background check from all that attend the second level. This is just an idea that was talked about.

Jerry Nulliner stated that this would be an issue with NFPA because they do not list this for 3 different categories.

IFSTA will give us the curriculum, and test bank. Brady's Kirk book does not have this.

Karrie Dillon states that most test banks have now been validated. We brought a group together in May for 2 days and they validated FF ½, Inspector ½, instructor I, II, Fire Officer 2, Driver Operator/Aerial have all been validated.

John Buckman states that in the last 4 weeks we have been sending notices to everyone that registers a test, leading them to the web page to take the training on how to register courses webinar, how to be a lead instructor, how to be a lead evaluator.

The instructor recertification change takes effect 2013. This rule cut the certification expiration from 3 years to 2 years.

Jerry Nulliner asked about instructor 2/3 and recertify and let their Instructor I lapse, what is the status? Jerry has had 3 people call him and explain that staff has told him he cannot renew instructor II/III because the instructor I expired.

John Buckman stated that he would check into it.

Dave Probo commented on the issue of whether a lead instructor can act as an evaluator. Dave gave a 3 page report and talked about a poll that he took and that 72% said they think a lead instructor should be allowed to do this. They do

not have a problem with the lead instructor evaluating a skill that they did not teach.

If the Instructor is credible and has integrity, there is not an issue. In most cases, the lead instructor is a course manager. What we were asking is for you to interpret what you want. There is nothing in the board rules that say a lead instructor cannot evaluate.

Mara Snyder stated that her concern with Dave's interpretation is that back when the board discussion when this rule was created, is that the concept of the lead instructor was that that person owns the course. This person is the individual with the most interest in the results of the course. No one has a greater interest in the passing rate. To allow a lead instructor to evaluate flies in the face of the intent of the original rule. That is to say that those who have a vested interest in making sure students pass should not be testing them. That was the board's basis for the rule you drafted to start with.

Marty McCrindle states that being a teacher, he found that the integrity of a teacher comes from the instructional process. I would be required to instruct students and at the same time proctor the tests and validate the skill portion of the class. My reputation is at stake if I let them slide on a skill. I think the lead instructor should be able to evaluate.

Jerry Nulliner stated that whether you are a lead instructor or not, you are still teaching part of a class. But, if you did not teach that skill set, then you should be allowed to evaluate that skill. You are still being monitored by the lead evaluate, so there is still a check and balance in place.

Jeff Hayes stated that he agreed with Jerry Nulliner. The lead instructor is eligible to evaluate skills that he did not teach. Jack Kerney agreed with this also. James Greeson and Michael Garvey all agreed with this decision.

Shawn Grass spoke about doing the skills the proper way, took them 13 hours to complete the skills.

Jeff Hayes asked about consolidating the Firefighter skills. Dave Probo stated that there is no way to do this. The steps listed, are critical information. Dave Probo explained that this book is for the instructor and it was not the intention of the staff to have every student have this book.

The student needs to keep the 4 page check off sheet in file. This shows that the skills have been completed and passed.

John Buckman stated that the books are on line. Anyone can go on the web page, and print out the book if that is what they want. This 240 page book is a reference only for the evaluators.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, JUDGE BIPPUS

No report at this time.

L. OLD BUSINESS

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator, update, curriculum submission etc., Jamie Meredith.

The concern of this committee is that they want to take the course but the state is not ready with testing.

Jeff Hayes explained that testing has always been in place. At one time, there was an issue with the skills but this has been resolved. Anyone that wants this certification can request the written test and the skills are on the web page. There was a clerical error on the table of new rules when Pub Ed was marked through. This will be corrected on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

There was an issue about the curriculum. Last year in Greenwood, the group stated that they would give us a curriculum for this class.

Certification needs a book that the test bank was validated against. The IFSTA books was used to validate the test bank. John Buckman stated that if they wanted to do the skills at class exercises they could do that.

David Israel is the new President of the IVFA as of January 1, 2012.

Jerry Nulliner asked Karrie Dillon about the IFSAC. Is this basically done through the certifying entity? Who does the approval? John Buckman stated that the Board is the certifying entity. Not Homeland Security. The certificate from IFSAC reads the Board of Firefighting Personnel. Who represents the board at these meetings and in the correspondence with IFSAC? Karrie Dillon stated that John Buckman was the contact as the voting member. Jeff Hayes stated that John Buckman was not a board member and he could not vote. Years ago, Jerry Nulliner was nominated by the Board to be the representative and he needs to be included in these issues. Mara Snyder stated that a Board member is the liaison with IFSAC.

Jeff Hayes made a motion to nominate Jerry Nulliner as our representative with IFSAC. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed. Jeff Hayes asked for this to be on the agenda for updates.

Larry Southland: the Board cancelled out on the convention this year and there are a lot of upset people. I think you need to apologize to the IVFA for cancelling without notice. Jeff Hayes stated that he sent a letter of apology to be read at the meeting. I tried to contact several individuals to explain, but a letter was sent to Tim Deckard in early June explaining.

M. NEW BUSINESS

No report at this time.

N. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:35pm

Next meeting:

August 1, 2011 6PM

Winchester FD

113 E Washington St

Winchester IN 47394

765-584-4411